



Article Alert compliments of the Embassy of the United States of America to the Republic of Zambia

Dear Friend:

The Embassy of the United States of America is pleased to share this **“Civil Rights in America”** Article Alert with you. “Civil Rights in America” is the theme of this year’s Black History Month, which is commemorated every February in the United States. We trust that you will find this Alert useful and informative. If you desire additional information about topics involving American government policy, education, culture and/or social issues, please do not hesitate to contact Information Resource Director Wilcliff Sakala at sakalaw@state.gov. We welcome your feedback.

A compilation of article abstracts from U.S. news media and other sources

Theme: Civil Rights in America

1. Black History Month Honors Legacy of Struggle and Triumph



Each February, Black History Month honors the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens over the most devastating obstacles — slavery, prejudice, poverty — as well as their contributions to the nation’s cultural and political life. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, African Americans make up about 14 percent of the U.S. population and comprise the second-largest minority group, after Hispanics. The election of Barack Obama, America’s first African-American president, continues to lend Black History Month a special significance.

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2007/01/20070126175516x1rennef0.8811151.html>

2. Americans Compromised on Slavery to Secure Sectional Political Unity

Slavery divided Americans from their very first day of independence. As the American South grew more dependent on a new staple crop — “King Cotton” — and on the slave-intensive plantations that cultivated cotton, the prospect of a clash with increasingly anti-slavery northern states grew. The young nation delayed that conflict with a series of moral evasions and political compromises.

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/publication/2009/01/20090105163026jmnamdeirf0.5420648.html#axzz2rtbgmFr1>

3. The Non-Violent Political Civil Rights Movement Begins

The successful boycott of segregated buses in Montgomery, Alabama — which began with the arrest of Rosa Parks on December 1, 1955 — transformed the civil rights cause into a mass political movement. It demonstrated that African Americans could unite and engage in disciplined political action, and marked the emergence of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. — the indispensable leader who inspired millions, held them to the high moral standard of nonviolent resistance, and built bridges between Americans of all races, creeds, and colors.

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/publication/2009/01/20090105181308jmnamdeirf0.537945.html#axzz2rtbgmFr1>

4. Music Played Key Role in U.S. Civil Rights Movement



When we think about the civil rights struggle in the United States, a tune called “Freedom Song” comes to mind. It was the type of music you could expect to hear at the civil rights movement’s mass meetings and protest rallies.... Most of the original fighters in the civil rights movement were based in the church, so their songs were a lot like church hymns.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/music-played-key-role-in-us-civil-rights-movement/1738614.html>

5. USA Today: Equality Still Elusive 50 Years After Civil Rights Act

When President John F. Kennedy called on Congress in June 1963 to pass what would eventually become the Civil Rights Act of 1964, he rattled off a string of statistics intended to highlight the nation's continuing racial divide a century after the Emancipation Proclamation.

Fifty years later, the battle to end overt discrimination has been far more successful than the effort to attain economic, educational or social equality.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/01/19/civil-rights-act-progress/4641967>

6. U.S. News and World Report: Has the U.S. Made Enough Progress Towards Racial Equality?

Fifty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous “I Have A Dream” speech, sharing his desire to see the nation rise, “from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.” Dr. King didn't live long enough to see perhaps the most symbolic representation of progress 50 years later: President Barack Obama. But many contend that the country still has a lot of work to do to achieve both racial and economic justice for all.

<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2013/08/28/has-enough-progress-been-made-on-racial-equality-since-martin-luther-king-jr>